

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 1674

Washington, D. C.

March 22, 1958

USDA Urges Farmers To Use Federal Crop Insurance

The Secretary of Agriculture, in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, has urged farmers to take increased advantage of this protection against disaster.

The Secretary's statement cited indemnities paid the citrus industry in 1957 as an example of farmer benefits derived in a high risk field of insurance. "For six years," the statement said, "citrus policyholders paid a half million dollars protection with few losses but 1957 citrus indemnity checks alone will total three-fourths of a million dollars."

Current FCIC policies on tree crops are available only to certain citrus crops in selected areas of Florida. Recently, however, a pilot project for peaches was effected in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and considered successful by FCIC underwriters. As a consequence of this successful operation in Spartanburg County the board of directors of the FCIC will be asked shortly to approve a pilot project for Tulare County, California. The proposed policy for Tulare County is expected to be restricted to navel oranges and coverage limited to losses incurred by freezing.

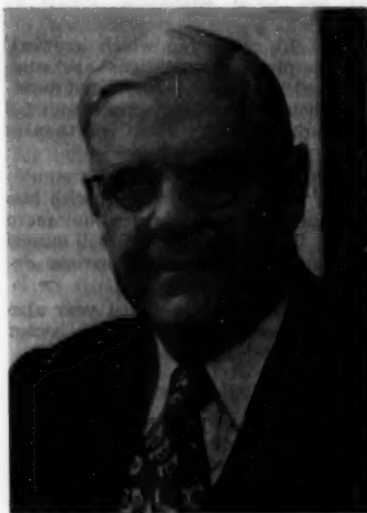
FDA District Office in Detroit

FDA has announced plans to open a new district office and laboratory in Detroit, the first new FDA district headquarters in 24 years.

The Detroit district office is scheduled to open this fall and is to serve the State of Michigan and the northern judicial districts of Ohio and Indiana. These areas are served now by the Chicago and Cincinnati offices.

The FDA district office in Detroit will be housed in a new building, to be rented to the government, at 1554 E. Jefferson Ave.

FDA Commissioner George P. Larrick said, in an announcement, that "the opening of our 17th district office in Detroit will enable FDA to provide greater protection for both consumers and manufacturers."



Marc C. Hutchinson Dies; N.C.A. Leader for Many Years

Marc C. Hutchinson, 70, former N. C. A. President and Chairman of the Administrative Council, died March 18 at Holland, Mich., following a brief illness. He was president of Michigan Fruit Canners, Inc., Fennville.

Mr. Hutchinson was in his 27th consecutive year as a member of the Administrative Council and the Finance Committee. He had served the last 11 years as Chairman of the Administrative Council.

In nearly 30 years of leadership in N. C. A. affairs Mr. Hutchinson came to be highly regarded in the industry. With a gracious and commanding personality, he was respected and loved by a wide circle of canners and others in the trade.

The resolution adopted by the N. C. A. membership at the close of his two-year tenure as President, 1932-33, expresses the esteem in which he was held:

"The Association has been exceedingly fortunate to have at its helm a man of the ability of President Marc C. Hutchinson. He is not only an able canner but also a well trained banker and he deserves generous

MSSA To Survey Industry on Swell Allowances

A survey of current industry practice regarding swell allowances is being undertaken by the Military Subsistence Supply Agency.

Results of the survey will be considered in a possible revision of the schedule of discounts contained in the Special Recovery Provision, Clause OPD 535 b of military subsistence contracts. This schedule is covered by Army regulations and is mandatory where the canner chooses at his option to allow a discount in lieu of recovery.

Procurement officials evidently recognize that due to improvements in canning techniques there is an industry tendency to lower the commercial swell allowance percentages from those in effect at the time the present Army regulation was promulgated.

All canners who are on MSSA mailing lists will be asked to report their current commercial policy and their recommendations to the government. MSSA also will welcome replies from canners who are not on their mailing lists. Requests to receive a copy of the swell allowance questionnaire should be addressed to the Chief of the Purchasing Division, Military Subsistence Supply Agency, 226 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago 6, Ill.

praise for any credit the Association receives for guiding its finances. He has shirked no duty and has accepted every responsibility. He has added prestige to the Association and deserves the respect and thanks of every canner in the United States."

Mr. Hutchinson entered the canning business in 1920 when he organized the Fennville Canning Company. This firm was merged in 1927 with the South Haven Preserving Company and the Godfrey Packing Company under the name of Michigan Fruit Canners, Inc. Mr. Hutchinson was vice president of the new firm from the time of its founding to 1936 and president from 1936 to the time of his death. Under his guidance Michigan Fruit Canners, Inc., became one of the most important food proc-

essing organizations in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Hutchinson's first formal connection with N. C. A. was in 1928 when he began a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors. With the late Frank Gerber, he played an important role in the development of Association activities and policies during the years when business began to come under government controls, first as depression measures and later as wartime emergency programs. He was steadfast in his opposition to government direction of business and contributed much to the N. C. A. and the industry in helping to define government-industry relationships during the periods of preparedness and war.

He was on the N. C. A.'s War Council in 1942, was Chairman of the War Planning Committee in 1943, and during the Korean war was a member of the War Mobilization Committee for three years.

Mr. Hutchinson also had a leading part in the N. C. A. buildings program. He served on the Buildings Committee from 1948 to 1951, during which period the new structures at Washington and Berkeley were erected and occupied.

He also served as a trustee for Association trust funds established for consumer claims and for N. C. A. employee retirement.

Other N. C. A. committees on which he had served, at various times, were Resolutions, Legislative, Home Economics, Scientific Research, Raw Products, Public Relations, Claims, and Function Analysis.

At the time of his death Mr. Hutchinson was a member of the executive committee of the National Red Cherry Institute, a member of the Michigan State Cherry Commission, and president of Old State Bank, Fennville. He was a former president of the Michigan Canners Association.

Mr. Hutchinson is survived by two sons, J. Edward Hutchinson and Robert L. Hutchinson, and a daughter, Mrs. John K. Andrews.

Intentions Reports Indicate Small 1958 Planted Acreages

Crop plantings for the nation's 1958 harvests now seem likely to edge slightly below last year's low level and dip to the smallest total acreage in over 40 years, according to a report by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The 16 crops for which growers' March planting intentions are summarized now have prospects of totaling about 271 million acres, about 5.6 million acres or 2 percent less than in 1957.

Feed grain acreage will be significantly smaller than in 1957, with less sorghums, oats and barley, but more corn. Food grain acreage will exceed last year's total, with increases expected for wheat and rice.

Small increases over last year also are in prospect for potatoes, sweet potatoes, and dry edible beans.

POTATOES

Prospective acreage of late summer and fall potatoes is 1,078,000 acres, up 1 percent from the 1,064,100 acres planted in 1957, but 6 percent below the 8-year (1949-56) average of 1,146,000 acres. This March 1 prospective acreage, added to planted or intended acres reported previously for earlier crops, would comprise a total of 1,423,900 acres for the U. S. in 1958, fractionally above the 1,419,200 acres planted in 1957.

SWEET POTATOES

Acreage intentions of growers for sweet potatoes during 1958 are reported at 293,600 acres, about 1 percent above the 291,500 acres planted in 1957 but 21 percent below the 1949-56 average plantings of 370,500 acres. Present acreage intentions of growers are about 1 percent above the USDA's suggested acreage guide.

Louisiana, which had about 30 percent of the total acreage in 1957, reports intentions at 88,000 acres in

1958 or 2 percent above the 1957 acreage. Larger acreages are reported also in prospect in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas.

If growers carry out their intentions reported on March 1 and if 1952-56 average yields are obtained, by states, a production of 16,226,000 hundredweight for 1958 can be expected. This would compare with 18,053,000 hundredweight harvested in 1957 and an average of 19,711,600 hundredweight for 1949-56.

DRY BEANS

Growers intend to plant 1,544,000 acres of dry beans this year, according to reports to USDA as of March 1. This is 5 percent above the 1,464,000 acres planted in 1957 but 6 percent below the 1947-56 average of 1,642,000 acres.

In the Northeast bean area, the over-all increase from last year is small. Maine shows a slight decrease, New York indicates no change, and Michigan reports a 3 percent increase. The Northwest reports moderate increases for all producing states except Washington, where a 45 percent increase over last year is indicated.

The pinto area of the Southwest shows only a small increase over last year. Colorado, the principal pinto state, indicates an increase of 2 percent over the acreage planted last year.

The California dry bean acreage is expected to be up about 4 percent. All limas show an increase of 2 percent, and "other" dry beans indicate a gain of 5 percent above last year.

If the acreage indicated by March 1 intentions is actually planted and if yields are equal to the 1952-56 average, by states, the 1958 production would be about 17.3 million bags, nearly 10 percent larger than last year's small crop.

RICE

Acreage of rice seeded in 1958 will be increased 86,000 acres, compared with 1957, if growers' March 1 intentions are carried out. If these intentions materialize, the 1.46 million acres seeded would be 6 percent above last year but 25 percent below the 10-year average.

DURUM WHEAT

Intended plantings of durum wheat amount to 1.2 million acres, less than one-half of last year and half of average. All producing states expect sharp declines from last year.

Stocks of Canned Fruits on March 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks and shipments of canned apples and applesauce and RSP cherries have been issued by the N. C. A. Division of

Statistics, and detailed reports on the March 1 stock and shipment situation have been mailed to all packers of these products.

	Carry-over month	Case basis	Total Supply		Canners' Stocks		Season Shipments	
			1956-57	1957-58	March 1 1957	March 1 1958	to March 1 1957	to March 1 1958
					(thousands of cases)			
Apples.....	Sept.	6/10	4,566	4,528	2,443	2,720	2,123	1,776
Applesauce.....	Sept.	actual	18,193	16,139	8,920	8,144	7,274	7,894
RSP cherries.....	July	actual	3,103	3,865	839	870	3,264	2,934

1957 Packs of Vegetables

Reports on the 1957 packs of canned peas and carrots, mixed vegetables, and succotash have been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

PEAS AND CARROTS

Region	1956 (actual cases)	1957
Northeast.....	126,206	114,630
Midwest.....	804,449	1,137,681
West.....	659,909	608,151
U. S. Total.....	1,590,624	1,860,662

Northeast: Del., Md., Pa., and N. Y. Midwest: Minn. and Wis. West: Ore., Utah, and Wash.

MIXED VEGETABLES

The 1957 pack of canned mixed vegetables totaled 1,598,036 actual cases compared with the 1956 pack of 1,874,330 cases.

SUCCOTASH

The 1957 pack of canned succotash (lima beans and corn) totaled 522,937 actual cases compared with the 1956 pack of 385,262 cases.

Pack of Canned Meat

The quantity of meat canned and meat products processed under federal inspection during February has been reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA at 236,779,000 pounds, including quantities for defense.

CANNED MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION, FEBRUARY, 1958

	3 Lbs. Under & over 3 Lbs.	Total (thousands of pounds)
Luncheon meat.....	14,266 11,133	25,399
Canned hams.....	27,444 450	27,894
Beef hash.....	506 7,789	8,295
Chili con carne.....	965 17,013	17,978
Vienna sausage.....	261 6,489	6,750
Frankfurters and wieners in brine.....	44 227	271
Deviled ham.....	1,045	1,045
Other potted and deviled meat products.....	3,667 3,667	7,334
Tamales.....	397 3,467	3,864
Sliced, dried beef.....	43 450	493
Chopped beef.....	9 665	674
Meat stew.....	179 12,248	12,427
Spaghetti meat products.....	315 11,142	11,357
Tongue (not pickled)...	59 130	179
Vinegar pickled products	861 1,192	2,053
Sausage.....	993 993	1,986
Hamburger.....	388 3,149	3,537
Soups.....	1,600 55,464	57,064
Sausage in oil.....	444 302	746
Tripe.....	412 412	824
Brains.....	266 266	532
Loins and picnics.....	3,688 88	3,776
All other products 20% or more meat.....	501 9,012	10,413
All other products less than 20% meat (ex- cept soup).....	766 25,879	26,645
Total all products.....	32,634 173,564	226,198

N.C.A. President Voices Approval of Benson Policies

Support for the agricultural policies of Secretary Benson was voiced by N.C.A. President Edward E. Burns in a major address March 21 at the 46th annual convention of the Utah Cannery Association.

"We believe in the type of agricultural economy and legislation he advocates. We admire and support his strenuous efforts to correct the agricultural maladministration that has created unmanageable surplus, declining prices, and depressed markets for so many agricultural products," he stated.

"Mr. Benson's conscientious and forthright application to the things he stands for shines through all the controversy and malignment to which he is subjected and has aroused the admiration of a great majority of the citizens of this nation, even including some of his opposition."

Mr. Burns said that "Secretary Benson has done more to stiffen the moral fiber of farmers than any Secretary of Agriculture in history."

Mr. Burns pointed out the close relationship of canning with agriculture, through its conversion of perishable crops into nonperishable canned foods. The farmer who grows the food crop and the canner who processes it and thus extends the marketing season almost indefinitely have much in common, he said. "Their economic interests are so intertwined that it is difficult to think of them as separate groups."

Highlights of Mr. Burns' address were distributed by the N.C.A. Information Division in a press release to 58 Utah newspapers, 30 radio and television stations, the local and national wire services, and to the canning trade journals.

Importance of Sanitation

E. S. Doyle, sanitarian at the N.C.A. Berkeley Laboratory, addressed two food groups recently on the importance of sanitation in food processing plants.

He was a panelist at a research conference conducted by the California Fig Institute in February, his remarks being concerned chiefly with economic aspects of the problem. He also addressed 150 of California's winery officials in March on sanitation in relation to production and quality.

Conferences on Sanitation and Processing Problems

The N. C. A. Washington Research Laboratory will hold three all-day conferences in Maryland and New Jersey in mid-April on "Sanitation and Processing Problems."

Topics to be covered include FDA regulations; prevention of product contamination; the relationship of sanitation, safety, and fire prevention; the application of bacteriology to canning sanitation and processing; and the plant cleaning problem. These subjects will be considered from the point of view of maintaining a high level of product quality.

The program is designed for superintendents, foremen and foreladies, and will be open also to management and technical personnel. The program will be conducted by J. W. Bell and C. W. Bohrer of the Washington Laboratory.

Following is the schedule of technical conferences, which have been scheduled in cooperation with the Tri-State Packers Association and the New Jersey Cannery Association:

April 15—Fire Hall, Fruitland, Md.
April 16—Cumberland Hotel, Bridge-
ton, N. J.

April 17—Maryland State Health De-
partment Auditorium, Baltimore.

It will be necessary, in completing arrangements for each conference, for canners to notify the N. C. A. Washington Research Laboratory by April 7 how many persons plan to attend and at which location.

Dry Beans on CCC Sales List

USDA takeover of 1957-crop dry beans amounted to slightly less than 31,000 hundredweight of pea beans and 2,000 hundredweight of dark red kidney beans, and these beans have been added to the CCC monthly sales list for March.

All of this supply of 1957-crop beans was taken over in Michigan following the price support loan maturity date of February 28.

The 1957-crop dry beans in CCC inventory will be sold at the higher of the domestic market price or a minimum price which is 105 percent of the 1957 support rates plus carrying charges. The market price for pea beans is announced at \$7.84 per hundredweight basis and for red kidney beans at \$8.98 per hundredweight basis U. S. No. 1 f.o.b. cars at country shipping points in Michigan.

Status of Legislation

Agricultural trade development—S. 3420, to raise Title I authorizations from \$4 to \$7.5 billion and to extend P. L. 480 for two years, to June 30, 1960, was passed by the Senate March 20.

Alaska statehood—H. R. 7999, to provide statehood for Alaska, was reported by House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee June 25, 1957, and will be the subject of a hearing by the House Rules Committee March 27. S. 49, Alaska statehood, and S. 50, Hawaii statehood, were reported by Senate Interior Committee Aug. 29, 1957.

Anti-dumping Act—H. R. 6006, to amend the Anti-dumping Act of 1921 so as to facilitate determinations under the Act, was passed by the House Aug. 29, 1957, and will be the subject of a hearing by the Senate Finance Committee March 26.

CCC equity payments—S. 2426 (Ellender of La.), to authorize CCC to acquire title to unredeemed loan collateral without obligation to make equity payments, is pending before Senate Agriculture Committee.

Customs drawback—H. R. 9919, to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to extend the privilege of substitution for the purpose of obtaining drawback upon reexportation of all classes of merchandise, was passed by the House Feb. 27.

Farmworkers housing—H. R. 9057, to provide for five-year amortization of housing facilities for farmworkers, was reported by House Ways and Means Committee Aug. 21, 1957.

FDA food additives—H. R. 6747 (Harris of Ark.) and S. 1895 (Hill of Ala.), the Administration-sponsored bill, H. R. 8390 (Harris of Ark.), H. R. 8629 (Wolverton of N. J.) and other food additives bills are pending before the Health and Science Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee. N.C.A. supports H. R. 8390 and H. R. 8629.

Fisheries loan fund—S. 2720, to increase the loan fund authorization from \$10 million to \$13 million, was passed by the Senate Aug. 20, 1957. S. 3295, to increase the authorization from \$10 to \$20 million, was reported by the Senate Commerce Committee March 11 and is scheduled for Senate consideration soon.

ICC agricultural exemption—S. 1089 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H. R. 5823 (Harris of Ark.), to amend the agricultural exemption in sec. 203 (b)(6) of the Interstate Commerce Act, have been introduced.

Marketing orders—H. R. 8367 (Slak of Calif.) is designed to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to continue marketing orders in effect even after parity is reached. No action scheduled.

Marketing orders, cranberries—S. 1680 (10 Senators from 5 cranberry producing states) and other bills to amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act so as to authorize marketing orders for cranberries for canning, were the subject of hearings by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee April 20, 1957. N.C.A. opposes.

Mexican farm labor—H. R. 10360 (Gathings of Ark.), to extend indefinitely the authority under P. L. 78, 82d Congress, to import Mexican nationals for employment in agriculture, was the subject of hearings by a House Agriculture Subcommittee Feb. 28-March 3, and will be the subject of a further public hearing April 14.

Packers and Stockyards Act—S. 1356 (O'Mahoney of Wyo.), to transfer antitrust jurisdiction over meat packing operations from USDA to FTC, was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee July 18, 1957. H. R. 9020, to retain USDA antitrust jurisdiction on exclusive meat packing operations, was reported by House Agriculture Committee July 9, 1957, and H. R. 11234, also relating to antitrust jurisdiction, was reported by House Commerce Committee, with amendment, March 17 and is scheduled for Senate consideration soon.

Potato marketing and labeling—A number of bills to prohibit the sale of potatoes of a lower grade than U. S. No. 2, under certain conditions, were the subject of hearings by the House Agriculture Committee and by the Senate Agriculture Committee in 1957. N.C.A. opposes application to canning.

Premerger notification—H. R. 7698 (Celler of N. Y.), to require 60 days notice prior to merger of corporations having total book value of more than \$10 million, was reported by House Judiciary Committee May 28, 1957.

Raw product bargaining—S. 1743 and S. 2444 (Alken), to legalize organized bargaining for agricultural commodities under certain conditions, has been referred to Senate Agriculture Committee; and H. R. 6799 (Bow of Ohio) and H. R. 7807 (Bentley of Mich.) have been referred to House Judiciary Committee. No action scheduled.

Robinson-Patman Act—S. 11 (Kaufman of Tenn.) and H. R. 11 (Patman of Tex.), to restrict the good faith defense against a charge of price discrimination, was approved without recommendation, by Senate Antitrust Subcommittee June 21, 1957, and is pending before the Judiciary Committee.

Salmon protection—H. Res. 451, favoring negotiations with the government of Japan for the protection of the Alaskan red salmon fisheries, was adopted by the House March 17. This is comparable to a Senate resolution adopted March 6.

Trade Agreements Act—H. R. 10368 (Mills of Ark.), to amend and extend the Trade Agreements Act, is the subject of hearings begun by the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 17.

Wage-Hour—S. 1853 (Kennedy of Mass.), which includes proposal to eliminate overtime fishery exemption, was approved, without recommendation, by Senate Labor Subcommittee May 7, 1957.

Waste disposal—H. R. 1082 (Byrnes of Wis.), H. R. 2463 (Lipcomb of Calif.), and H. R. 4234 (Simpson of Pa.), to allow rapid amortization of waste disposal facilities and treatment works, have been introduced. N.C.A. supports the proposal, which is before House Ways and Means Committee.

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